

EXECUTIVE ORDER

05-08

April 25, 2005

STATEWIDE PK-16 COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the future quality of life in the state will be based on the quality of our education system and its ability to produce a workforce with the skills and knowledge required to support information-age businesses;

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that the high school diploma is a prerequisite for college admission and most jobs, but students who earn a diploma have no guarantee that they are prepared for college-level work or entry-level employment;

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education confirms that 58 percent of recent Rhode Island high school graduates who enrolled at the Community College of Rhode Island were required to take two or more remedial courses;

WHEREAS, a seamless, coherent state system of education is carried out best by a formal structure that ensures improved student achievement at all levels through more formalized and systemic communication and alignment between Rhode Island's elementary, secondary and post secondary ("PK-16") education systems and workforce development programs; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education have already formed the Joint Board PK-16 Subcommittee to begin to address some common issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order as follows:

1. That within the educational system of the State of Rhode Island, the Statewide PK-16 Council be established, building on the current work of the Joint Board PK-16 Subcommittee;
2. That the PK-16 Council shall be chaired by the Governor and its membership shall be appointed by the Governor and include the Chair of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Chair of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Director of the Department of Labor and Training, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, the Chair of the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council, and the Chair of the Human Resources Investment Council; and
3. The functions of the PK-16 Council will be to recommend to the appropriate board or agency policies designed to:
 - a. Align standards for achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics so that students graduating from Rhode Island high schools are fully prepared for college-level work;
 - b. Link achievement standards with employer expectations;
 - c. Establish formal high school credit-based transition programs with higher education institutions;
 - d. Improve the quality of teachers and educational administrators who lead schools, districts, and school-related initiatives;
 - e. Support the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Math-Science Achievement and track our State's progress;
 - f. Create a unified data system to connect information between our elementary and secondary education system, post secondary institutions and workforce development programs;

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- g. Provide better pathways to higher education for low-income residents;
and
- h. Produce a more competitive workforce and promote economic
development through quality education, research and workforce
development.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof.

So Ordered:

Donald L. Carcieri

Date: _____